

Calendar No. 1141

68TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ No. 1075

GRANTING PUBLIC LANDS TO THE TOWN OF SILVERTON, COLO., FOR PUBLIC PARK PURPOSES

FEBRUARY 3 (calendar day, FEBRUARY 11), 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JONES of New Mexico, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3927]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3927), granting public lands to the town of Silverton, Colo., for public park purposes, having considered the same, reports thereon favorably without amendment, and recommends it do pass.

The recommendations of the Department of the Interior are indicated in House Report No. 364.

[House Report No. 364, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred H. R. 3927, a bill granting public lands to the town of Silverton, Colo., for public park purposes, having considered the same, reports it herewith to the House with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The bill, omitting the title and enacting clause, is as follows:

"That there is hereby granted and conveyed to the town of Silverton, Colorado, for public park purposes, and for the use and benefit of said town, the following-described lands or so much thereof as said town may desire, to wit:

"A tract of land situate in township forty north, range seven west, New Mexico principal meridian, in the county of San Juan and State of Colorado, conforming as nearly as practicable to legal subdivisions, and not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres in extent, which land embraces what is commonly known as lower Molas Lake, in said county.

"That such conveyance shall be made of the said land to said town by the Secretary of the Interior, upon the payment by said town for the said land, or such portion thereof as it may select, at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, and patent issued to said town for the said land selected, to have and to hold for public park purposes, subject to the existing laws and regulations concerning public parks; and the grant hereby made shall not include any lands which at the date of issuance of patent shall be covered by valid existing bona fide right or claim initiated under the laws of the United States: *Provided*, That there shall be

reserved to the United States all oil, coal, and other mineral deposits that may be found in the land so granted and all necessary use of the land for extracting the same: *Provided further*, That said town shall not have the right to sell or convey the land herein granted, or any part thereof, or to devote the same to any other purpose than as hereinbefore described; and that if the said land shall not be used as a public park, the same, or such parts thereof not so used, shall revert to the United States."

The purpose of the bill and the character of the land in question, which was further shown to the committee by the statements of persons familiar with the ground, is set forth in the following statement of the board of trustees of the town:

STATE OF COLORADO,

County of San Juan, Town of Silverton:

This is to certify that it is the sense of the board of trustees of the town of Silverton that what is known as the lower Molas Lake and the territory adjacent thereto should be secured by the town of Silverton as a public park for the reason that such lake is a beautiful body of water situated near the boundaries of said town and is the only similar body of water that can be readily reached by the citizens of such town; that such lake is situated on the State highway between Silverton and Durango and is easily reached by the citizens of said town and visitors coming to this city; that it is upon the public domain, and is of no known commercial value, and the ground adjacent thereto is only useful for grazing purposes, as such lake is situated approximately 10,000 feet above sea level. Said board of trustees would further state that it is the purpose and intention of said town of Silverton to make improvements at said lake which will permit a greater use of the same as a pleasure resort and will maintain supervision over it at the town's expense, and for the purpose of securing the greatest good to the greatest number said town desires the passage of an act enabling it to purchase such body of water and the land adjacent thereto.

Made and dated at Silverton, Colo., this 17th day of January, 1924.

Attest:
[SEAL.]

B. S. ALLEN, *Mayor.*

WM. BRAYDEN,
Town Clerk and Recorder.

The proposed legislation has been submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, who has indicated his consent to it in the following letter to the chairman of the Committee on the Public Lands:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 6, 1924.

Hon. N. J. SINNOTT,
*Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SINNOTT: I have your request for report on H. R. 3927, granting public lands to the town of Silverton, Colo., for public park purposes.

While in the form of a present grant, the bill contemplates the selection of the land by the town of Silverton, payment therefor at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, and issuance of patent.

As the bill protects valid existing bona fide claims, reserves oil and other minerals to the United States, and contains the usual reversionary clause, I have no objection to its enactment.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.